

where only token nods of the head toward our honored dead are given, if at all.

Many people do not know that at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day, we should take a moment of silence in recognition for the lives lost for freedom's sake. But we cannot blame the American public. After all, it was Congress that made the day into a 3-day weekend in the early 1970s. By comparison, Mr. Speaker, Veterans' Day is celebrated on November 11, regardless of which day of the week it falls on, and Memorial Day should also be the same.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the thousands of men and women who have given their lives fighting for the freedom we enjoy today, and those currently fighting for the freedom we will enjoy tomorrow, let us restore Memorial Day to its original date, May 30. We owe our loved ones and friends who died in service to our country a restored Memorial Day.

#### CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the chickens come home to roost for the Republicans. After destroying a \$5 trillion surplus and giving away \$4 trillion in tax cuts to the wealthiest people in the country, tomorrow the Republicans must take the first step in authorizing an additional \$750 billion in deficit spending, Mr. Speaker; \$750 billion that this Nation does not have because of the Republican giveaways in the tax cut, and \$750 billion that unfortunately now must come directly out of the Social Security Trust Fund.

Remember all of those promises about a lock box, about a super lock box, how they would never use Social Security for any other purpose? All of those promises go by the wayside tomorrow, because tomorrow is the first step when the Republicans vote to increase by \$750 billion of spending that is taken directly from Social Security.

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What does that mean to Social Security recipients? It means that Social Security is less secure. Eventually, it means that the age limit is going to have to be raised, and then the Republicans will have to work on their plan to privatize Social Security. The last time they privatized something, it was the energy markets; and the next thing we saw was the Enron Corporation.

#### REPUBLICAN TAX CUT MEANS LOWER TAXES FOR THE POOR

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, before our tax cut, the top 50

percent of taxpayers paid 96 percent of all the taxes paid in the country. After this tax cut, the top 50 percent of taxpayers pay 97 percent of all the taxes paid in this country.

Let us say it another way, Mr. Speaker. Before the tax cut, the lower 50 percent of taxpayers paid 4 percent of all the taxes in the country. After the tax cut, they pay only 3 percent of all the taxes in the country.

Help me understand, Mr. Speaker, how this tax cut was a tax break for the rich. It seems to me it was a tax break for the poor, because the lower 50 percent of taxpayers now pay only 3 percent of the total taxes, rather than 4 percent. Mr. Speaker, that is a 25 percent decrease in the taxes paid by the lower 50 percent.

#### REPUBLICAN PLAN TO PRIVATIZE SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve to know what the Republican Congress and the President are going to do to Social Security. They have proposed a vague plan, a plan they say is voluntary, that would create individual accounts for those who choose to invest a portion of that money in the stock market. They say that these accounts will earn retirees a higher rate of return.

But what they do not tell the voters and they do not tell the American seniors about is that changing to this new system will result in cutting benefits, cutting benefits for Social Security retirees across the board.

So even though the accounts themselves may be technically voluntary, the benefit cuts are very much mandatory; and if a retiree does not want to risk his or her benefits in an increasingly shaky stock market, fine, but his or her guaranteed monthly check will not equal what it is today. If they have a higher rate of return on their account than the government will allow, what they do not tell us is that in fact the government is going to tax that rate of return at 100 percent.

Mr. Speaker, the simple fact is that the Republican plan cuts benefits for today's retirees, those in the future, and puts them at risk. Let us not let them do it.

#### COMMENDING THE 106TH RESCUE WING OF THE NEW YORK AIR NATIONAL GUARD

(Mr. GRUCCI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, on May 16 the 106th Rescue Wing of New York's Air National Guard completed their 292nd successful life-saving rescue. Based out of Gabreski Airport in West Hampton Beach on the East End of

Long Island, the 106th Rescue Wing was called to rescue three people whose sailboat mast had broken in the rough North Atlantic seas about 600 miles south of Long Island. The members of the 106th Rescue Wing are nothing short of heroes: 292 people owe their lives to the heroic efforts of the brave members of the 106th Rescue Wing, currently under the command of Colonel Robert J. Stack. The 106th Rescue Wing epitomizes the bravery and professionalism of our men and women in uniform.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the First District of New York, home to the 106th Rescue Wing, a grateful Nation and 292 people who would not be here today without the efforts of the 106th, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 106th Rescue Wing of the Air National Guard.

#### PATRIOTISM REQUIRES OPPOSING PRIVATIZATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND AND INVESTIGATING SEPTEMBER 11 TRAGEDY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues with their concerns about the undermining of Social Security preservation and safety for our seniors; and we must fight against both the privatization and the invading of the trust fund, which will happen tomorrow, unfinished business that we must stand up and be counted for and be patriotic on behalf of our seniors.

Might I, Mr. Speaker, suggest that it would be unpatriotic as well if we stood by and did not understand what happened on September 11. It would be unpatriotic, not to talk about politics and who is in the White House and who is not, but to find out why the INS failed in its duty in giving two dead terrorists visas.

It would be derelict on the part of Congress not to find out what FBI Director Mueller is talking about when he speaks about the potential of a suicide bomber. What information does Congress need to have in a confidential and executive session manner to protect the American people? What happened with the August and July memo?

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on the Judiciary, I would say it would be unpatriotic if we did not establish what happened so we could save lives and begin to have a road map that would make sure that we understood what happened here in America. It would be unpatriotic, Mr. Speaker; and we in Congress must do our job.

#### TOMORROW THE HOUSE WILL TAKE ONE MORE STEP TOWARDS UNDERMINING SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House